

In other words, in a democratic society, the public has an active voice in influencing public policy and decisions. Only through effective participation, however, is it possible for this to happen. The final decisions end up affecting the public, so it is important that they speak up and make sure their voices are heard. Only when the people are involved in the political process can their needs be addressed by today's leaders, and consequently be put into public policy.

The policies that are eventually enacted and integrated into our society primarily affect the public. Therefore, the public ought to have a say in the process, as true democratic principles outline. This right does not come into place, however, if proper action and self input is not inserted. There are many options available for the public to be involved in the political process, such as voting, donating to campaigns, or joining interest groups. When people fail to use the options of political participation before them, they are slowly taking power out of their own hands, inviting the ability for the nation's liberties to be taken away.

Every individual is unique and lives under different circumstances. Income, race, gender, and opinions vary greatly from person to person. Due to this factor, it would be impossible for a certain select number of people from one majority to vote during elections for policies that they support, and have these votes reflect the nation's inclination. The idea that policies favor a select few does not seem fair, and leans towards the idea that we are fading away from the idea of democracy. The numbers of those who lack participation in the political process add up and create a hole in how much today's government reflects the will of the people.

Being involved in the government is an inherent part of democracy in that it places the individual into the political process. If the public separates itself, and does not allow its concerns to be addressed, then the problems that the everyday citizen faces won't be fixed. If one's concerns are ignored, then it creates a feeling of apathy within the nation towards the government for not addressing their needs. All of this would be the result of a simple communicational gap. The public's involvement in the political process is the key to closing the gap between themselves and the government. Once that gap is connected, we are one step closer to democracy. It is important that everybody is involved in the political process, given that every individual's opinion matters and makes up the viewpoint of the nation as a whole.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 251, due to other representational obligations in Hannibal, Missouri, I had to miss this vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING IBEW LOCAL 25

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the im-

mense success that the members of the Local 25 chapter of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers have achieved. The 2,600 members of Local 25 have, for 80 years, dedicated themselves to the service of their community and achieving excellence within the electrician profession.

IBEW Local 25's service to Long Island began in 1932, when some of the finest crafts people in the world wanted to better facilitate their remarkable skills. IBEW is deeply committed to the ongoing training of its members. Seasoned associates of Local 25 eagerly pass down their accumulated knowledge to the younger generations of electricians in a fair, equal opportunity setting.

Local 25 is of vital importance to the Long Island community, and I am proud of their heritage and remarkable skill sets. The mission of this coalition of tradesmen is to produce the finest skilled electricians in the world who will produce the highest quality electrical installations. I believe the great members of Local 25 have achieved that goal.

Mr. Speaker, I honor the fine members of IBEW Local 25 for their invaluable and continuing contributions to our community. It is my great hope that they will continue to serve as an inspiration for others through their work and ongoing devotion to the great State of New York.

IN HONOR OF THE ONE HUNDRED YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF MARINE CORPS AVIATION

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May 2012 as the one hundred year anniversary of United States Marine Corps Aviation. The Marine Corps stands as a symbol of America's strength and honor, and its history serves as a reminder of the commitment and sacrifice so many Americans have made in defense of this nation.

What began in 1912 when Marine Corps 1st Lt Alfred A. Cunningham reported for flight training has extended through the ongoing operations around the world. A program that started with less than 40 men now consists of hundreds of skilled pilots, expert engineers, and experienced ground crews. In support of their brothers and sisters on the ground, they have flown over the hedgerows of Europe, the jungles of East Asia, the deserts of the Middle East, and every ocean in between. From transportation of the President, to air-ground fire support, to medical evacuation on the battlefield, the capabilities of Marine Corps Aviation are second to none.

In honor of Marine Aviators past and present, I have introduced H.R. 1621, legislation that pays tribute to Marine Corps Aviation with a commemorative coin. These coins will serve as a tribute to the capabilities pioneered by our earliest Marine aviators, and refined over the years to make the Marine Corps a force capable of protecting our nation "in any clime and place." As a helicopter pilot and 25-year Marine veteran, I am proud to have borne the title—Marine Aviator—and stand here today to honor one hundred years of Marine Corps Aviation. Semper Fidelis.

JESSICA GREENBURY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jessica Greenbury for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jessica Greenbury is an 8th grader at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jessica Greenbury is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jessica Greenbury for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 250, 251, 252, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all three.

A HISTORY OF THE EXPANSION OF PRESIDENTIAL POWER

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter to the editor of the NY Times that was published on 24 April 2012. The letter was written by noted constitutional lawyer, Mr. Bruce Fein, Esq. It talks about the unchecked power the office of the President of United States has acquired since WW II.

[From the New York Times, April 27, 2012]

A HISTORY OF THE EXPANSION OF PRESIDENTIAL POWER

(By Bruce Fein)

The unilateral actions of President Obama in the domestic arena to circumvent Congress are more than matched by the president's unilateralism in foreign affairs. Among other things, President Obama has unilaterally commenced war, authorized the assassination of American citizens abroad and denied the writ of habeas corpus to detainees not accused of a crime.

Executive branch power at the expense of Congress and the Constitution's checks and balances has mushroomed since World War II. Examples include President Truman's undeclared war against North Korea; President Eisenhower's executive agreements to defend Spain; President Johnson's Gulf of Tonkin Resolution regarding Vietnam;